

What is claimed is:

1. A tomographic image processing method for carrying out image processing on image data representing a chest tomographic image, the method comprising the step of:

5 carrying out dynamic range compression processing on the image data so as to compress a high density range of the chest tomographic image.

2. A tomographic image processing method as defined in Claim 1, the method further comprising the step of:

10 carrying out frequency enhancing processing on the image data having been subjected to the dynamic range compression processing.

3. A tomographic image processing apparatus for carrying out image processing on image data representing a chest tomographic image, the apparatus comprising:

15 dynamic range compression processing means for carrying out dynamic range compression processing on the image data in order to compress a high density range of the chest tomographic image.

20 4. A tomographic image processing apparatus as defined in Claim 3, further comprising:

frequency enhancing processing means for carrying out frequency enhancing processing on the image data that have been subjected to the dynamic range compression processing.

25 5. A computer-readable recording medium storing a program to cause a computer to execute a tomographic image

processing method for carrying out image processing on image data representing a chest tomographic image, the program comprising the procedure of:

5 carrying out dynamic range compression processing on the image data so as to compress a high density range of the chest tomographic image.

6. A computer-readable recording medium as defined in Claim 5, the program further comprising the procedure of:

carrying out frequency enhancing processing on the image data having been subjected to the dynamic range compression processing.